IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3 as follows:

A schematic of an embodiment of a scheme to generate four pulses is shown in FIG. 1. From FIG. 1, light energy is initially generated by light emission source 101. The light energy is shown as four separate beams to more clearly illustrate the formation of four separate pulses. In most real situations only a single light beam would originate from the light source. The light energy from light emission source 101 is a pulsed light source. Light is transmitted toward beamsplitter 102, which splits the light energy.[[.]] The pulse that is [reflectedby] reflected by beamsplitter ~~101is~~ 101 is directed to the 10 ns optical delay 103, and beamsplitter ~~104Beamsplitter~~ 104. Beamsplitter 104 may again either split the beam or permit the beam to pass through. If it passes through, it is directed to the 20 ns optical delay 105, mirror 106, and to the specimen. In the case of the pulsed light energy passing through beamsplitter 102, said light energy contacts loss compensator 107 and subsequently passes to beamsplitter 104. Loss compensator 107 compensates for imperfect optical components such as the beamsplitter 102 or loss in optical delay [[103]] 103. In this manner, light energy reflected by beamsplitter 102 contacts beamsplitter 104 at the same or nearly the ~~sameenergy~~ same energy as light energy passing through beamsplitter 102 and loss compensator 107. Similarly, light energy from beamsplitter 104 that passes through loss compensator 108 strikes the sample surface at approximately the same energy as light passing the 20 ns optical delay 105 and mirror [[108]] 106. If the light from source 101 is polarized, mirror [[108]] 106 could be replaced by a waveplate and polarizing beamsplitter. In this manner the beams can be easily co-aligned. This mechanization provides for

varying delays of the pulsed light energy such that light energy strikes the specimen surface at a desired time with relatively uniform energies.

At page 30, please replace the entire Abstract with the following:

A system and method for reducing peak power of a laser pulse and reducing speckle contrast of a single pulse comprises a plurality of ~~beamsplitters, mirrors and delay~~ elements oriented to split and delay a pulse or pulses transmitted from a light emitting device. The design provides the ability to ~~readily~~ divide the pulse into multiple pulses by delaying the components relative to one another. Reduction of speckle contrast entails using the same or similar components to the power reduction design, reoriented to orient received energy ~~such that the~~ wherein angles between the optical paths are altered such that the split or divided light energy components strike the target at different angles or different positions. An alternate embodiment for reducing speckle contrast is disclosed wherein a single pulse is passed in an angular orientation through a grating to create a delayed portion of the pulse relative to the leading edge of the pulse.

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